

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-11 CIAE-00

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FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5261

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA AJ

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR CB SW

SUBJECT: DIPLOMAT'S VISIT TO CAMBODIA; SIEM REAP

REF: PEKING 395, PEKING 396, PEKING 398

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MUNRO REPORT OF SWEDISH AMBASADOR
BJORK'S COMMENTS ON CAMBODIAN LEADERSHIP:

2. BEGIN TEXT. BJORK AND HIS FELLOW DIPLOMATS TALKED WITH MOST OF THE
PROMINENT PERSONS IN THE CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT. HE SAID KHIEU SAMPHAN,
A DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND A KEY FIGURE IN THE GOVERNMENT, "GIVES
THE IMPRESSION OF BEING AN INTELLECTUAL OF SOME QUALITY. A SERIOUS
PERSON, RATHER RESTRAINED, RATHER RESERVED. WE HAD MOST OF OUR
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WITH IENG SARY WHO SEEMS LIKE A RATHER EXTROVERTED PERSON.....

THESE ARE MEN WHO, AS YOUNG MEN, WERE SENT ABROAD TO FOREIGN UNIVERSITIES, ACQUIRED A GREAT DEAL OF KNOWLEDGE, A GOOD DEAL OF MARXIST THEORY, AND CAME BACK TO CAMBODIA AND REACTED VERY STRONGLY TO EXISTING SOCIAL CONDITIONS. THEY HAVE VERY STRONGLY COLLECTIVIST AND EGALITARIAN IDEAS WITH A VERY STRONG OVERTONE OF NATIONALISM."

3. REFERENCES TO ONE OR ANOTHER CAMBODIAN LEADER BEING PEKINGS MAN OR

MOSCOW'S MAN OR HANOI'S MAN" IS NONSENSE, "THE SWEDISH ENVOY SAID," BECAUSE I THINK THEY HAVE ENORMOUS DETERMINATION TO KEEP THEIR DISTANCE FROM ALL FOREIGN COUNTRIES, TO ASSERT THEMSELVES AT ANY PRICE."

BJORK RELATED CONVERSATIONS WITH CAMBODIAN LEADERS WHICH INDICATED GREAT WARINESS OF VIETNAM. THEY STRESSED THAT THEIR VICTORY OWED NOTHING TO THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS AND, WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE DESIRABILITY OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH VIETNAM, THEY CAREFULLY REPLIED, "EXCHANGE, NOT COOPERATION" (BJORK WENT ON TO

SAY THAT) "THEY ARE FRIENDLY TOWARD CHINA BUT THEIR ATTITUDE IS NOT THAT OF A CHINESE SATELLITE," BJORK DECLARED: "IT WAS SAID, 'OF COURSE WE HAVE RECEIVED A LARGE CREDIT FROM CHINA BUT SO FAR ONLY A VERY SMALL PART OF IT HAS BEEN USED'"

4. BJORK VISITED PRINCE NORODOM SIHANOUK, THE TITULAR HEAD OF STATE, AND FOUND HIM EXPRESSING OPTIMISM ABOUT CAMBODIA'S FUTURE. "SIHANOUK) IS COMPLETELY LOYAL TO THE REGIME, HE DOES NOT SEEK ANY QUARREL WITH THEM." PENN NOUTH, THE TITULAR PRIME MINISTER AND AN OLD COLLEAGUE OF THE PRINCE, WAS RELUCTANT TO PUT ANY IDEOLOGICAL LABEL ON CAMBODIA: "HE DESCRIBED CAMBODIA AS NOW BEING ONE LARGE FAMILY WORKING TOGETHER." END TEXT
THAYER

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